

NOTES RELATING TO THE FLORA OF BHUTAN: VI
A new species of *Erycibe* (Convolvulaceae)

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ABSTRACT. *Erycibe laurifolia* Long is described as a new species from India, Bangladesh and Bhutan, and its differences from allied species are indicated.

INTRODUCTION

Under his catalogue number 1333, Wallich (1828) distributed under the nomen nudum *E. laevigata* Wall. a mixture of two different *Erycibe* species, both collected in Silhet, Bangladesh, by F. de Silva in 1824. In Wallich's herbarium at Kew (K-W) both elements are represented under number 1333; these were conveniently designated 1333a and 1333b by C. B. Clarke. The first, 1333a, has leaves reddish-brown when dry, with 7-11 pairs of lateral veins, and large flowers with corollas 13-15 mm long; whilst the second, 1333b, has leaves pale grey-brown when dry, with fewer (5-6) pairs of lateral veins, and much smaller flowers with corollas only 7-8 mm long.

The name *Erycibe laevigata* was first validated by Choisy (1834) based on material of Wallich Cat. 1333, and from the description and type specimen in G-DC (microfiche!) he clearly saw the pale-leaved (1333b) element, for which the name *E. laevigata* must be retained, as pointed out by Hoogland (1953). Unfortunately the 1333b element is conspecific with *Erycibe glaucescens* Choisy, described by Choisy in the same publication based on a different Wallich specimen, Wallich Cat. 1334 from Burma. The 1333a element was apparently not seen by Choisy and therefore remained undescribed.

C. B. Clarke, on studying Wallich's herbarium during preparation of Volume 4 of the *Flora of British India* (Hooker, 1883-85), recognized that 1333b was identical to 1334, *E. glaucescens*, but wrongly assumed that Choisy's *E. laevigata* was based on 1333a and therefore misapplied the latter name to that plant. Until Hoogland (1953) pointed out Clarke's error the name *E. laevigata* was widely used for the dark reddish-brown-leaved plant, e.g. by Kurz (1877), Cowan & Cowan (1929) and Kanjilal et al. (1939). Hoogland sought another name for *E. laevigata* sensu Clarke and placed it (with some uncertainty) as a synonym of an Indo-Chinese species, *Erycibe schmidtii* Craib.

Recent study of specimens from Bhutan, W Bengal, Assam and surrounding areas has led to the conclusion that *E. laevigata* sensu Clarke differs from plants of *E. schmidtii* from Indo-China in a number of respects, and it is therefore described below as a new species, *E. laurifolia* Long. The differences between *E. laurifolia* and the two species with which it has been confused, *E. glaucescens* Choisy (*E. laevigata* Choisy non Clarke) and *E. schmidtii* Craib (*E. semipilosa* Gagnep.) are given in Table 1 and illustrated in Fig. 1.

TABLE 1

	<i>E. laurifolia</i>	<i>E. glaucescens</i>	<i>E. schmidtii</i>
Young branchlets	sparsely appressed reddish pubescent	subglabrous	sparsely whitish pubescent
Leaf size	8-19 × 3.5-8cm	7-11 × 2.5-4.2cm	6-9 × 3-4.5cm
apex	finely & sharply acuminate	sharply acuminate	shortly & bluntly acuminate
lower surface	minutely gland-pitted	smooth	smooth
colour when dry	dark reddish-brown	pale grey-brown	brown
lateral veins	7-11 pairs	5-6 pairs	5-8 pairs
petiole length	12-23mm	4-8mm	8-15mm
petiole indumentum	appressed reddish pubescent	sparsely reddish appressed pubescent	sparsely white pubescent
Flower bud diam.	4.5-5.5mm	2.9-3.5mm	c. 4mm
Sepal length	4-4.5mm	2-2.5mm	2.5-3mm
Indumentum of outer sepals	densely appressed reddish-brown pubescent	appressed reddish-brown pubescent	subglabrous, pubescent towards base
Corolla length	13-15mm	7-8mm	8-9mm

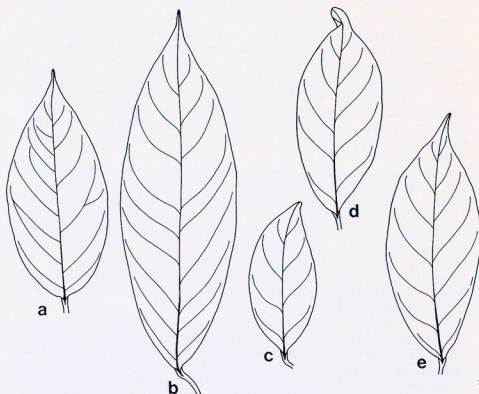


FIG. 1. Leaves of *Erycibe* species. a, *E. laurifolia*, Smith 4581; b, *E. laurifolia*, Clarke 26652; c, *E. schmidtii*, Schmidt 686b (isotype); d, *E. schmidtii*, Poilane 6193 (lectotype of *E. semipilosa*); e, *E. glaucescens*, Wallich 1333b (isotype of *E. laevigata*). All $\times \frac{1}{2}$.

***Erycibe laurifolia* Long, sp. nov.** Fig. 1a, b.

Syn.: *E. laevigata* sensu Clarke, Flora Brit. India 4: 181-2, 1883, non Choisy, Ann. Sci. Nat. ser. 2, 1: 223, 1834.

Affinis *E. glaucescenti* Choisy (*E. laevigata* Choisy non Clarke) et *E. schmidtii* Craib (*E. semipilosa* Gagnep.) sed foliis in sicco atroferrugineis, 8-19×3.5-8cm, tenue acuminatis, basibus plerumque rotundatis, subtus minute glanduloso-foveolatis, venis lateralibus 7-11-jugatis, petiolo 12-23mm longo, alabastris 4.5-5.5mm diam., sepalis 4-4.5mm longis, duobus exterioribus dense pubescentibus pilis adpressis atroferrugineis, corolla 13-15mm longa differt.

Type: India, Khasia Hills, leg. W. Griffith, Kew Dist. 5884 (holo. K, iso. BM).

Scrambling or climbing shrub, or small tree to 10m; branchlets somewhat angular, sparsely appressed reddish-brown pubescent. Leaves dark reddish-brown when dry, oblong-elliptic, 8-19×3.5-8cm, apex finely acuminate, based rounded, rarely cuneate, margin entire, glabrous, upper surface smooth, lower surface minutely gland-pitted, midrib impressed and narrowly grooved above, prominent beneath, lateral veins 7-11 pairs, slightly prominent beneath; petiole 1.2-2.3cm, appressed reddish-brown pubescent. Flowers in terminal panicles, 4-10cm, and short axillary cymes, 2-3.5cm; flower-buds globose, 4.5-5.5mm diam., sepals suborbicular, 4-4.5mm, sometimes broader than long, outer two densely appressed reddish-brown pubescent, margins ciliate; corolla yellowish, 13-15mm long including short tube c. 3mm. Fruit subglobose 2.5-3cm diam.

DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of *Erycibe laurifolia* is mapped in Fig. 2, based on the following herbarium specimens:

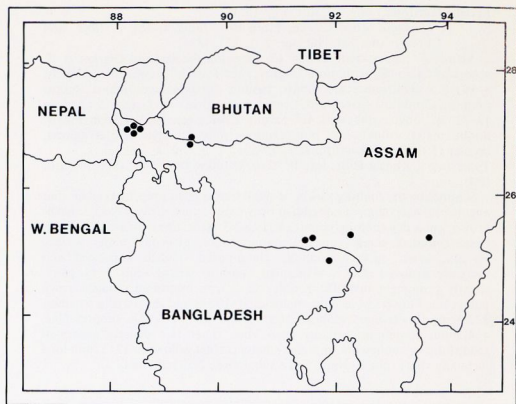
INDIA, ASSAM: s.loc., v 1893, *King's Collector*, s.n. (CAL); Henima, Naga Hills, 4000ft, 27 iv 1935, *Bor* 2793 (K); E Bengal, Griffith K. D. 5884 (CAL); Khasia, Griffith K. D. 5884 (BM, K (type)); Khasia, ?leg. Griffith 711 (CAL); Khasia, *native collector* s.n. (E); Khasia, *Hooker & Thomson* s.n. (CAL); Khasia, Churra, 9 ix 1850, 'Erycibe 8', *Hooker* 2235 (K); Khasia, Mamloo, 14 xi 1850, 'Erycibe 8', *Hooker* s.n. (K); Khasia, Jawai, 4000ft, v 1890, *Collett* s.n. (CAL, K).

W BENGAL, DARJEELING DISTRICT: s.loc., 4000ft, 2 vi 1874, *King* (CAL); s.loc., 5500ft, 21 v 1879, *King* s.n. (BM, K); s.loc. 5500ft, 21 v 1881, *King* s.n. (CAL); E Himalaya, Griffith K.D. 5884 (GH); Darjeeling, Griffith K.D. 5884 (K); Darjeeling, 6000ft, xii 1876, *Gamble* 2119c (CAL, K); Gyabari terai, 18 v 1917, *Cave* s.n. (CAL); Kurseong, 5000ft, 2 vi 1877, *King* 4856 (CAL, GH, K); Kurseong, 5000ft, 3 vi 1875, *Clarke* 26652 (CAL, K); Kurseong, 4500ft, 29 v 1884, *Clarke* 35567 (BM); Labdah, v 1900, *Prairie* s.n., (A); Mungpoo, 19 v 1908, *Ribu* 822 (CAL); Mungpoo, 10 vi 1908, *Rhomoo* 298 (CAL); Mawring, Mungpoo, 4000ft, 12 v 1909, *Kari* s.n. (CAL); above Mungpoo & Sureil, 900m, 16 v 1911, *Smith* 4581 (E); Parketing-Fagu path, 4500ft, vi 1904, *Haines* 755a (E, K); Rishap valley, 3500ft, 6 x 1879, *King* 5059 (CAL, E, K); Rongbe, 4000ft, 19 v 1913, *Cave* s.n. (A, E); Rungbi, 10 vi 1902, *Ribu* s.n. (CAL, GH); Sureil, 5000ft, v 1879, *Gamble* 6914 (K); Sureil, 4500ft, 30 ix 1903, *Haines* 755 (K); Sureil, 5500ft, 24 x 1908, *Smith* 695 (CAL).

W BENGAL DUARS: On way to Sinchula, 2 iii 1934, *Biswas* 2012 (CAL).

BANGLADESH: Silhet, 1824, *de Silva, Wallich Cat.* 1333 p.p. (1333a sensu Clarke) (CAL, E, K-W).

BHUTAN: Sinchu La, 1800m, 10 x 1915, *Cooper* 4962 (E).

FIG. 2. Distribution of *Erycibe laurifolia*.**Other species examined***Erycibe glaucescens*INDIA, ASSAM: Cachar, iv 1873, *Keenan* s.n. (K).BANGLADESH: Sylhet, 1824, *de Silva*, *Wallich Cat.* 1333 p.p. (1333b sensu Clarke) (BM, CAL, E, K, K-W).BURMA: Moulmein ['Moolmyne'], 1827, *Wallich*, *Cat.* 1334 (CAL, K (type)).*Erycibe schmidtii*THAILAND: Koh Chang, Klong Son, *Schmidt* 686b (K—isotype of *E. schmidtii*).VIETNAM (ANNAM): prov. Nhatrang, Nui Han-heo, 300m, 3 v 1923, *Poilane* 6193 (P—type of *E. simipilosa*).**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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